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224 with bait on top and trails of bait leading to it. These animals are common only on the eastern edge of the Tanala territory, where the forest is less dense. Rats are never eaten, but they often become a pest, destroying the stored rice. They are caught in a variety of traps. The simplest is a deadfall made from a large stone or billet of wood supported by three sticks arranged in a figure four, as in American rabbit traps. A more elaborate form has a wooden base with two upright pegs which pass through holes in the weight and serve to guide it in its fall. Here also the weight is supported by a figure four. Another trap is made from a length of large bamboo, with a spring pole and noose of small cord. The cord passes through a hole in the bamboo and the noose is spread around the interior of the joint, the cord above the noose being held down by a small trigger. The bait is put at the bottom of the joint, beyond the noose, and in trying to reach it the rat releases the trigger and is snared. The most interesting of the rat traps is made on the bow principle. Two heavy strips of springy wood are tied together at both ends. In the center a tube of bamboo is placed with a close-fitting wooden plunger. In the side of the tube there is a hole large enough to admit the rat's head. The bows are drawn apart until the plunger is at the level of the top of the hole. It is then fastened there by a cord which passes through perforations in the sides of the tube and under the end of the plunger. This cord is soaked in meat juice and when the rat gnaws it away the bows bring the plunger down with enough force to crush the animal's head (Fig. 2, c).

223 Guinea fowl are caught with a spring pole and noose held down by a trigger. The noose is laid flat on the ground with bait in the center and is surrounded by a fence of little sticks so that the bird will be sure to enter it. Guinea fowl are also caught by digging a little pit 3 or 4 inches deep and putting in the bottom a wooden cross with ground nuts impaled on the ends. A noose is spread about the sides of the pit, just below the edge. In attempting to pick out the nuts the bird, when it raises its head, displaces the noose and draws it taut. Long guinea snares with a series of hanging loops, which are used by the plateau tribes, do not seem to be employed by the Tanala. Hawks, which do a great deal of damage to the native poultry, are also caught in snares. A rod is laid on the ground supported on two little sticks half an inch high. A little chicken or duckling is bound to this and the noose spread around it, over the rod. When the hawk seizes its prey it lifts rod and all and the noose tightens about its feet. Ground birds other than guinea fowl are caught in cages

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●223 of split bamboo which may have either a slide door released by a trigger or a conical entrance of grass, shaped like the entrance of a fish trap. When the bird enters the grass falls together and conceals the opening. Small birds are caught with snares made from the long hairs of a cow's tail or, rarely, human hair. These snares are set, several together, around a nest or on the ground near the village rice mortars, where the birds come to pick up the grain. Birds are also caught with bird lime, which is smeared on slender twigs or splints of bamboo and placed in trees where they congregate. There are several varieties of lime. The commonest is made from the sap [314] of a creeper called *tandrakosy*. This is chewed as it begins to solidify and is then ready for use. Another variety is made from the juice of the *samata* vine. This is kneaded into a cold, boiled sweet potato until the two are thoroughly mixed. The mixture is kneaded and washed in running water until the soluble portion has been removed. It is then ready for use. The best lime of all is made from the sap of the *samata* tree (not the vine mentioned above). The sap is collected in bamboo cups which are attached to the trunk of the tree below cuts, as in collecting rubber. The full cup is then put in an open fire and left until the bamboo has burned away. The viscid mass remaining is thoroughly washed and is then ready for use. This lime is very strong and will not dry for a long time. Twigs which had been smeared with it remained sticky for four months.

FISHING

226 Fishing is somewhat more important than hunting in the native economy, but there are no professional fishermen. Large fish are speared either in daylight or at night, with torches. Two types of spear are employed, a double-pointed, double-barbed iron spear called *fitreka* and an unbarbed wooden spear with four points. This is made by splitting the end of a hardwood pole, inserting wedges to hold the points apart, and lashing the base of the head with split vines (Fig. 2, d). The wooden spears are now almost obsolete but are said to have been used by the aborigines of the Tanala country. Eels are caught with a large iron hook, either single or double (Fig. 2, h, j), attached to the end of a pole from 2 to 4 feet long. The hook has a single barb and usually a socket into which the head of the shaft fits loosely. A long cord is attached to the base of the hook by lashings. Eels sometimes grow as much as 8 feet long and when a large animal is struck the hook detaches itself from the pole and the eel is played with the cord until the fish becomes exhausted.

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with cord in the form of a cross. The ends are ground to keen points. The weapon is thrown with an overhand motion and has an effective range of about 15 yards. Natives say that it is feared because, when it strikes a shield, it will pivot around it and wound the man behind. At present it has fallen into disuse, like all other weapons. The Antaisaka, on the southeast coast, have a similar weapon which they call *fivingo*. The Mahafaly also say that this was the principal arm of the Kimosy, the aborigines of the southwestern part of the island.

Slings are still in ordinary use for hunting birds. The Tanala are not considered especially good slingers by the other tribes, but I was often amazed by their skill. The maximum effective range seems to be about 75 yards while at 50 yards slings are as dangerous as firearms in native hands.

Slings are made from raffia or, less frequently, bast. Occasionally the pocket is formed by dividing the sling into two strands (Fig. 24, d) but this type seems to be rare. Most slings have a pocket about 4 inches long and 1½ to 2 inches wide at the center, tapering toward the ends (Fig. 24, e, e1). The cords are usually wrapped for 2 to 3 inches beyond the pocket on each side. The total length of the sling, folded for use, is about 30 inches. The release cord ends in a knot. The retained cord is longer and tapers to a slender tail which is wrapped around the palm. In about 50 per cent of Tanala slings one cord is of plaited and the other of twisted fiber. The natives could give no reason for this except that it was an ancient practice. Slings from the Marquesas and Society Islands show the same peculiarity. Smooth river pebbles are used as ammunition. There are no indications that prepared slingstones have ever been used.

The ordinary axe, *antsi*, has already been described in the section on Wood Working (Fig. 10, d). It serves both as a tool and as a weapon and native men never travel without one. At the time the tribe was disarmed the natives surrendered their spears and other weapons readily, but maintained their right to carry axes, saying that they could not live in the jungle without them. In addition to the ordinary axes there are war axes, *antsi lava*. These have long heads pointed at the end, like a heavy single-edged knife. The handle is often as much as 3 feet long (Fig. 25, a). Such axes are now rare.

Shields, *patsy*, have been obsolete for many years. They were round or slightly oval and quite small, the largest not over 2 feet in diameter. The body of the shield was made of soft, light wood.